

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 19, as follows:

Referring now to Fig. 3, instead of forcing the applications to access the directory, the present invention brings the directory to the application—applications. Fig. 3 provides a functional description of the computers 10a, 10b (Fig. 1) and the directory 50 (Fig. 2). Since the actual number and the physical arrangement of the computers, directories, and the associated applications is inconsequential, the functional description of Fig. 3 facilitates a broader understanding of the invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 5, as follows:

The XSLT processor 126 then changes the format of the XML data to one appropriate for the NDS server 100 (e.g., NDS data format). This NDS data format may be specific to the NDS server, or may be another XML format. At step 146, execution returns to the XML generator 142 and at step 148, proceeds to an XSLT receiver 150. Alternatively, execution may proceed directly from the XSLT processor 126 to the XSLT transmitter-receiver 150 at step 152. At step 154, the XSLT receiver 150 calls the APIs for the NDS server 100 and passes the processed data as NCP (Netware core protocol) requests to the NDS replica 114 located on the NDS server. The replica 114 then propagates the changes to any other replicas (if any exist) as replication events.